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FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS DRUG KINGPIN

Ronald King faces life in prison

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that **RONALD KING**, age 40, of Rowlett, Texas, has been convicted by a jury in Shreveport on cocaine distribution and money laundering charges. This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) consisting of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies into a major drug trafficking and distribution conspiracy operating in the Shreveport area. The OCDETF operation is known as “Operation King Ron.”

OCDETF is the nation’s primary tool for disrupting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations. OCDETF leaders develop national and regional level drug trafficking targets, and coordinate the necessary law enforcement entities and resources to disrupt or dismantle the targeted criminal organization and seize their assets.

KING was charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, one count of money laundering, and one count of forfeiture. Testimony at trial revealed that KING had been distributing cocaine in Shreveport for approximately 20 years. Evidence at trial also revealed that KING

and his network of distributors were responsible for distributing millions of dollars worth of cocaine. KING used a small fleet of vehicles with hidden compartments to transport drug proceeds from Shreveport back to the Dallas area where he and other co-conspirators used financial institutions to launder the proceeds. The evidence also revealed that KING invested some of his proceeds in Shreveport area real estate. As a result of this investigation, the government seized in excess of \$40,000 in cash, a Shreveport area home and several firearms.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: “Although we are pleased with the jury’s verdict, this office will continue to aggressively pursue drug traffickers who spew poison in our neighborhoods. The public can have absolute confidence that this office will seek maximum punishment, up to and including life imprisonment, for drug traffickers.”

KING faces a sentence of life in prison, a \$4,000,000 fine, or both. Sentencing for KING has been set for June 21, 2007 at 1:15 p.m. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

“Operation King Ron” was conducted by OCDETF and the FBI’s Northwest Louisiana Violent Crimes Task Force which includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Shreveport, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshal’s Service, Shreveport Police Department, Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office, Bossier City Police Department and the Louisiana National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook is the lead prosecutor for this case.

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